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REVIEWS

L' Estremo oriente e le sue lotte. By ENRICO CATELLANI.
Milano, Fratelli Treves, 1904.—486 pp.

La Révolte de l' Asie. By VICTOR BÉRARD. Paris, Colin,
1904.—ii, 434 pp.

By far the larger part of Professor Catellani's book is devoted to a very careful study of the political and social institutions of China and of the international relations of that empire. More space is devoted to the internal conditions of China than the title of the book would lead us to expect, but we can have little fault to find with the author, as he has given us a very clear and sane exposition of the salient features of the Chinese situation. The author discusses the difference between China considered as a system of states and as an empire, and points out that, while the Chinese have from time to time parted with dependent territory apparently without great reluctance, they are very sensitive whenever an encroachment upon the more truly national territory of the eighteen provinces is attempted. The author's treatment of the democratic element in the Chinese constitution is very enlightening, especially when he points out that the doctrine of resistance, resting upon the theory that public welfare is the highest law, has always been an accepted part of Chinese constitutional law and has in the long course of Chinese history been used again and again as a basis for important political action. The author believes that the incompetence of the present dynasty is so keenly felt by the Chinese people themselves that the doctrine of resistance would long ago have been invoked in order to bring about a change of rulers, had it not been for the incubus of foreign intervention which has prevented any normal progressive development in Chinese civilization. In the words of the author :

Revolution reduced to a system by the masters of Chinese thought has been a constant element in Chinese public law and one of the most important factors in the conservation and the periodical renewal of the empire. China at present suffers through foreign intervention like a sick organism which is not allowed to eliminate the morbid elements which cause it to suffer.

On account of his thorough understanding of Chinese life and his appreciation of the virtues of the Chinese people the author is naturally not friendly towards the predatory attempts that have recently been made upon China. He emphasizes especially the dangerous character of the political ambitions of Russia and does not fail to point out the difference between her action and that of such nations as Great Britain, which is pursuing purely commercial interests, and the United States, which has economically the greatest stake in China and which has always pursued a policy of steady friendliness. This thorough-going study of actual conditions in the Orient reveals the groundlessness of the fears of a yellow peril conjured up by interested governments and sensation-loving writers. The author says :

The true yellow peril would threaten Europe if, together with Manchuria, all of Mongolia and the northern provinces of China should fall into the power of Russia. Fifty or sixty millions of Chinese subjects of Russia would indeed be a menace to the British power in Asia and to the very civilization of Europe itself.

While Professor Catellani has taken for the basis of his work the actual conditions in China, the French publicist, M. Bérard, views the oriental situation from the standpoint of western civilization and of the principal western nations ; the populations of the Orient, with the exception of Japan, appear rather as the pawns in a great game than as themselves the principal factors. In the opening chapters the author tries to determine the formula of the difference between oriental and western civilization. He adduces many considerations to prove that the difference is real, and lays special emphasis upon the transformation which the religion of Christianity, originally oriental, has undergone through its fusion with Greek, Roman and Germanic influences. Europe is thoroughly humanistic. It has been the principal stage of conscious human effort. "The attitude and ideal of European civilizations is the struggle for life ; resignation to life is the common trait of all Asiatic civilizations." The reason for this fundamental difference in thought, life and institutions the author sees in the respective natural environments. Asia is constructed upon an enormous scale, and the manifestations of nature are there so overpowering that humanity has not been able to achieve a sense of mastery and primacy. The author speaks of two Asias ; *la féconde*, the luxuriantly fertile valleys of China, India and Mesopotamia, and *la féroce*, the forbidding highlands of Mongolia, Thibet and Turkestan. The history of Asia is but a series of conquests of the nations dwelling in the broad and rich plains by the poor but warlike tribes of the mountain regions. From the latter, too, came the

invading hordes that spread terror through Europe in the Middle Ages. Japan represents both the ferocious and the fruitful Asia, and this representative dualism the writer traces through the whole of Japanese life and institutions. The subsequent chapters of the book are taken up with the treatment of the Russian descent, Japanese expansion and the rôle of Great Britain. The author takes the conventional unfavorable French view of Japanese social conditions, and while he gives a correct and highly interesting account of the vast plan of Russian empire, he fails entirely to put himself in the place of the oriental populations. The primary motive of Japan appears to him a desire for expansion, and he does not give due weight to the manner in which her very national life was threatened by the Russian advance. He accounts for the pro-Japanese policy of Great Britain as due primarily to the views and aims of Lord Curzon and the Indian government. London might have entertained the idea of an understanding with Russia; Calcutta never. When he says that the negotiations between Russia and Japan were broken off "for the benefit of the imperialists and speculators of Great Britain," he certainly allows his insight into the diplomatic game of world politics to divert his attention from the deeper forces involved. However, notwithstanding a certain proneness to speculation and antithesis, the book shows a masterly grasp of the general situation and presents a striking view of the drama of oriental politics.

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The United States and Porto Rico. By L. S. ROWE, Ph.D.
New York, Longmans, Green & Co., 1904.—xix, 271 pp.

The colonial policy on which the United States unexpectedly entered in 1898 has given rise to grave questions as to the treatment of the dependencies then acquired. As the result of the war in the Philippines and the distress that has since prevailed there, American public interest, so far as any has existed, has centered in that group. But there is a Porto Rican question as well as a Philippine question. It is admitted by all candid observers that there is not only great economic depression but also much political discontent in Porto Rico. Indeed, Professor Rowe, judging by our experience there as well as in the Philippines, suggests the question "whether we have not overestimated our spirit of tolerance and the elasticity of our ideas." In suggesting this question, he has in mind the disposition shown by some of the American residents to change the entire system of law and government and of domestic institutions, on the theory that everything that did not con-